



*Office of the United States Attorney  
Amul R. Thapar  
Eastern District of Kentucky*

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## **Former Lincoln County Teacher Sentenced to 87 Months in Prison for Child Pornography Charges**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**LEXINGTON, Ky.** — Joseph Hugh Briley, former Lincoln County band teacher, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Karl S. Forester to 87 months in prison and supervised release for life for child pornography charges, after pleading guilty in November of last year.

In the plea agreement, Briley, 40, of Stanford, Ky. admitted that from November of 2005 until March of 2006, he downloaded hundreds of images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct and admitted he knew those depicted were minors. Also as part of his plea agreement, Briley agreed to surrender his teaching certificate in all jurisdictions for the rest of his life.

Amul R. Thapar, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky said he was pleased with the sentencing that was handed down today.

"People who are put in a position of trust to care for our children need to be the most morally sound individuals," stated U.S. Attorney Thapar. "Capturing this predator makes us one step closer to creating a safe environment for our children to grow up in and learn."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erin J. May represented the United States in the case.

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